

February 14, 2003

UPDATE

Recent and Upcoming Formulation Process Logistics Mississippi Headwaters ROPE Study

RECENT EVENTS:

1. From December 2002 to mid-February 2003, efforts have been under way to define the decision model that will be used to incorporate the operational concerns and desires of all the stakeholders. To accomplish this, workshops/conferences were held in St. Paul with academia and with national experts to evaluate possible model designs for use in the ROPE study. These brainstorming sessions have succeeded in refining the framework of methods and models that will be used. This important effort was needed to ensure that the inputs of the various volunteer groups will be fully integrated into the formulation decision process. As a result of these efforts, an existing optimization model has been selected to optimize and balance competing operational outputs. This optimization model will greatly assist in defining a desired future physical condition for lake and river levels. Then, an existing simulation model will be used to help refine the engineering aspects of how to attain the designed conditions identified by the optimization model. The combined use of these models will provide a good method for defining operational desires, evaluating and optimizing systemwide uses, and exploring the best means to implement desired changes to the regulation of the reservoirs.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

2. The Corps Project Delivery Team will define strategic "geographic nodes" where volunteer inputs are needed (February 21 due date).
3. The Environmental Task Force will meet on March 4 in Brainerd. The meeting will focus on evaluating the appropriate low-flow requirements for river reaches.
4. For each geographic node, the Corps Project Delivery Team will prepare preliminary stage hydrograph displays for with project and without project conditions. It will identify and include pertinent constraints elevations data on vertical axis (March 21 due date).
5. The Corps Project Delivery Team will prepare questions for each task force and citizen group (to obtain their inputs for incorporation into the optimization model). These questions and the hydrograph displays will be incorporated into the next series of volunteer meeting agendas (March 21 due date).
6. The entire Project Delivery Team will meet to discuss the status of studies and to prepare for the upcoming meetings with the volunteer groups (scheduled for March 24).
7. Conduct meetings with each of the volunteer groups – includes all the task forces and citizen groups (to occur by April 7).
 - **NOTE:** The details for these meetings will be announced to the volunteers no later than 21 February 21, 2003, and will also be posted on the web page at: www.mvp.usace.army.mil/finder/display.asp?pageid=143